(a) whether Government is aware that many teachers in the country particularly in remote and rural areas, have hired people to teach their students in place of them on daily wages basis;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents;

(c) whether such practice may not spoil Government's planning to provide quality education to all upto 8th standard, and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government to check such practice of hiring people to teach students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (d) The teachers at school level are recruited as per the norms and policies of the respective State Governments. Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan,(SSA) teachers are sanctioned for new schools and wherever, there is adverse Pupil Teacher Ratio. Till 31st March, 2009, 9.86 lakh teachers have been recruited by the. State Governments, as per their norms and policies, salaries for such teachers are provided under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. In 2009-10, Rs. 9859 crores have been sanctioned for teacher salary under SSA.

Investigation for the purchase of ships

†2722. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation has been made into the losses made on account of delay in sanction for the purchase of six large Range-1 Product Faster ships by the Shipping Corporation of India;

(b) whether responsibility has been fixed after inquiring the concerned officers; and

(c) the details of the safeguards being taken to prevent its recurrence in future?

THE MIINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (c) The delay in sanctioning of the proposal which was processed under the PIB, CCEA Route was due to compliance of procedural requirement. Since, the delay was not intentional, no investigations were carried out. However, the observations made by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India in the audit para with regard to delay in acquisition of these vessels was duly replied by the Ministry.

The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has been conferred "Navratna" status on Ist August, 2008, Accordingly, the SCI Board is now empowered to take investment decisions at its own level and SCI's ship acquisition proposals are no longer required to be processed through the PIB, CCEA route thus avoiding any delays in the future.

Registration of fishing vessels

2723. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:
Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.